OUTLINE FOR
LICENSED STATE LAND SURVEYOR
EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

1) Purpose of this Study Guide
2) Applicants qualifications for License
3) Application forms and fees
4) Working Sketch submittal

AREAS OF STUDY

Acts, Rules and Boards

1) Professional Land Surveying Practices Act
   a) Current Act
   b) Previous Acts and revisions
   c) Authority, duties and obligations of a Licensed State Land Surveyor
2) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying General Rules of Procedures & Practices
   a) Current Rules
   b) Previous Rules and revisions
   c) Authority, duties and obligations of a Licensed State Land Surveyor
3) Former “Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors” acts, rules and regulations

Laws, Statutes and Codes

1) Gammel’s Laws of Texas - current and repealed laws pertaining to:
   a) Colonization
   b) Grants from the Spanish Government
   c) Headrights, Bounty and Donation Grants (Mexican, Republic and State)
   d) Disposition of the public domain (railroad, confederate, preemption, etc grants)
   e) General Land Office
   f) District and County Surveyors
2) Texas Constitution - Current and Repealed Articles pertaining to:
   a) Spanish and Mexican Land Titles
   b) Public Lands and General Land Office
   c) District and County Surveyors
3) General and Special Laws of Texas - current and repealed laws pertaining to:
   a) General Land Office
   b) The Public Domain
   c) County Surveyors
   d) Registration and/or Licensing of Land Surveyors
4) Vernon’s Annotated Texas Statutes - current and repealed statutes pertaining to:
   a) Public Lands
   b) Commissioner of the General Land Office
   c) General Land Office
   d) Surveyors and Surveys
      d1) Licensed State Land Surveyors
      d2) County Surveyors
      d3) Surveys and Field Notes
   e) Patents

5) Texas Natural Resources Codes - current and revised codes pertaining to:
   a) General provisions applicable to the public domain
   b) Surveys and Surveyors
   c) General Land Office
   d) Disposition of the Public Domain
   e) Beaches and Dunes

6) Texas Administration Codes - Title 31 Natural Resources and Conservation
   a) General Land Office procedures
      a1) Purchase of excess acreage
      a2) Procedure for patenting land
      a3) Vacancies
   b) Records of the Land Office
      b1) Examination
      b2) Reproduction
      b3) Translation of Spanish Archives
   c) Surveying
      c1) Field Note Forms
      c2) Coastal Lands and boundaries
      c3) Deeds of Acquittance and Corrected Patents
      c4) Dignity of Calls
      c5) Surveyor’s maps or plats and reports
      c6) Working Sketches

The General Land Office

1) History of the Land Office
   a) Laws and Acts pertaining to the Land Office
   b) Commissioners
   c) Administration and duties

2) Functions of the Land Office
   a) Records and Archives
   b) Surveying Division
   c) Asset management
   d) School Land Board
   e) Oil and Gas
   f) Coastal Area Planning
3) Contents of the Land Office (partial listing)
   a) Spanish Archives
   b) Field Notes, Patents and Deed of Acquittance Files
   c) School Land Register
   d) County Maps (current and retired)
   e) Sketch Files, Surveyor’s Reports, Connection Surveys
   f) Rolled Sketches
   g) Mineral Application Maps
   h) Public School Fund Land - bound block books
   i) County and State Line Field Notes
   j) Submerged area maps
   k) Abstract Volumes

Land Surveying Practice

1) Theory of Surveying
   a) Accuracy and Precision
   b) State Plane Coordinate Systems
   c) Water Boundaries
      1) Gradient Boundaries
      2) Coastal Boundaries

2) Practical Surveying
   a) Current methods
   b) Historical methods
   c) State Plane Coordinate Systems
   d) Water Boundaries
      1) Gradient Boundaries
      2) Coastal Boundaries

3) Surveying Instrumentation
   a) Current technology, equipment and uses
   b) Early instruments and equipment and their uses

4) Preparation of field notes, plats and reports

5) Court precedents pertaining to surveys and surveyors
   a) Dignity of Calls

REFERENCE SOURCES

Local Sources

1) Your County Surveyors Office may contain:
   a) Field Notes
   b) Plats
   c) Sketches
   d) Field Books
2) Your County Law Library (and possibly University Libraries) may contain:
   a) Gammel's Laws of Texas
   b) Texas Constitution
   c) General and Special Laws of Texas
   d) Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes
   e) Texas Natural Resources Codes
   f) Texas Administration Codes
   g) Texas and Southwest Reporters (court cases)
   h) Law digests and dictionaries

3) New and Used Book Stores
4) Local Surveyors
5) Local Surveying Societies

Statewide Sources

1) Texas General Land Office
2) State Libraries
   a) Texas State Library, Austin
   b) Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty
3) Surveying Societies

Internet Sources

1) Web Sites
   a) Gammel's Laws of Texas
      a1) texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawsoftexas/default.html
   b) Texas Constitution
      b1) www.capitol.state.tx.us/txconst/toc.html
   c) General and Special Laws of Texas
      c1) www.capitol.state.tx.us/
   d) Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes
      d1) www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html
   e) Texas Natural Resources Codes
      e1) www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html
   f) Texas Administration Codes
      f1) http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/tac/
   g) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying
      g1) www.txls.state.tx.us/sect00/homepage.html
   h) Texas General Land Office
      h1) www.glo.state.tx.us

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